and for converting NH-4 and NH-48 into 4-lane highways, including the section from Nelamangala by pass to Mangalore;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) The Government of Karnataka has submitted proposals for declaration of 20 State Roads as National Highways. In February 2004, the Ministry has declared 7457 Kms of State Roads as National Highways including 273 Km. in Karnataka. At present, emphasis is being given for development of roads already declared as National Highways instead of declaring more roads as National Highways. The State Government has been informed accordingly.

The Section of National Highway Number-4 from nelamangala to Karnataka/Maharashtra border is being four laned as part of Golden Quadrilateral Project NHDP Phase I. The Nelamangala-Bangabre-Hoskote-Kolar-Mulbagal Section of 105 kms of NH-4 and the Section Nelamangala to Hassam of 154 kms of NH-48 have been approved for four laning on Built Operate Transfer basis under NHDP Phase III A.

Third Phase of Highways Plan

2010. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently given approval to four/six-laning of 4,000 Km. of National Highways in third phase of the highways plan, and additional four/six laning of 6000 Km. under the NHDP Phase lll-B involving a total cost of about Rs. 55,000 Crores;

(b) Whether status of completion of Phase-I and Phase-lI NHDP has been taken into consideration;

(c) whether there is any time and cost over run in completion of Phase-I and Phase-ll; and

(d) if so, the difficulties being experienced and the special steps that have been adopted so that these do not recure in Phase-ll l-B?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Government has approved upgradation of 4000 km of National Highways under NHDP Phase lll-Aat a cost of Rs. 22,000 crore on BOT (Toll) basis. Government has also given approval for initiating advance action in the form of preparation of Detailed Project Reports for another 6000 km of National Highways under NHDP Phase III B.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) There have been delays in some contracts pertaining to NHDP Phase I and Phase II due to problems associated with land acquisition, shifting of utilities, poor performance of contractors etc. However, it is expected that actual expenditure on projects will not differ much from the estimated cost, allowing for escalation, steps adopted to solve the difficulties are given in the Statements

Statement

Steps adopted to solve the difficulties in completion of Phase-l and Phase-ll

(a) The contracts are regularly monitored at various levels such as by Supervision consultants/Independent Engineers, Project Directors, National Highways Authority of India officials at Headquarters.

(b) State Government have appointed Senior officers as nodal officers for resolving problems associated with implementation of the National Highways Development Project such as land acquisition, removal of utilities, forest/pollution/environment clearances etc.

(c) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted to address inter-ministerial and Central-States issues such as land acquisition, utility shifting, environment, approvals, clearance of Road over Bridges etc.

(d) To expedite the construction of Road Over Bridges, an officer of the Railways has been posted to National Highways Authority of India to coordinate with the Railways. Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with M/s IRCON International Limited.